

REMARKS

The courtesy of Examiner Callie Shosho in conducting a personal interview with the undersigned on February 14, 2001 is gratefully acknowledged. The interview summary which issued at the interview accurately reflects what transpired as further discussed below.

At the interview, applicants' undersigned representative discussed proposals for amending the claims to exclude from the claimed ink composition a cationic, water-soluble resin other than the recited cationic water-soluble resin of formula I. One of the proposals was the use of "consisting essentially of" language to limit the claimed ink composition to the recited components and other components that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristics of the claimed invention.

Applicants have now cancelled claims 1-11 and 13-22 and have rewritten them as new claims 23-40 and 50-51 using "consisting essentially of" language as discussed at the interview. The recitations in claims 23-33 correspond to the recitations in cancelled claims 1-11 respectively. The recitations in new claims 34-40 correspond to the recitations in cancelled claims 13-19 respectively. The recitations in claims 50-51 correspond to the recitations in cancelled claims 22 and 20 respectively.

The recitations in claims 23 and 50 pertaining to the optional ingredients and the recitations in claims 41-49 draw support from the specification as filed at, for example, page 5, line 28 - page 6, line 3; page 8, lines 22-23 and page 10, line 20 - page 11, line 11. The Examples appearing, for example, on page 23-24 show that more than one of the optional ingredients may be present in a single ink composition.

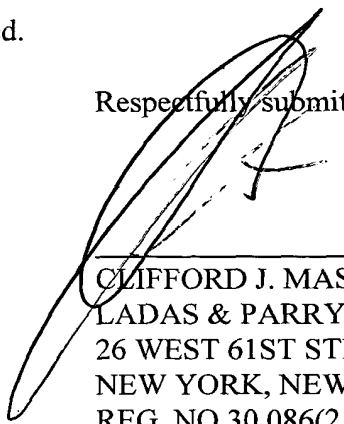
By virtue of the amendments discussed above, applicants have excluded from

the claimed ink composition the presence of cationic water-soluble resins other than that of the recited formula I. The primary reference cited by the Examiner, Tomita et al, does not disclose the use of the resin of the recited formula I alone. To the contrary, Tomita et al teach that the resin of formula I, if present in an ink composition, should be present in a mixture with other cationic water-soluble resins. Indeed, the preferred compositions exemplified in Tomita et al use only polyethyleneimines rather than the resins of formula I.

New claims 52-70 have been added which track the recitations previously in claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-20 and 22 (including the transition "comprising"), but which limit the cationic resin to one of formula I where n is 1. These claims are believed to be patentable over the prior art in view of the comparative data discussed in Applicants' amendment dated October 25, 1999 at pages 6-8, and the Examiners comments in the Official Action dated January 3, 2000 at page 7.

In view of the above, an early and favorable consideration of the application as amended is now respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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